

March 19, 1976

MEMO TO FILE:

Re: Utah International Iron Mine
#43-021-001
T. 35 S., R. 12 W.
Iron County, Utah

A field inspection of Iron Springs was performed on March 18th. The objectives of this inspection were two-fold: (1) to develop study plots in cooperation with the State Foresters Office, and (2) to consult with the people involved in completing the notice of intent and reclamation plan for Utah International Operations.

A tour with Mr. Warren White of the State Foresters Office and Mr. Garry Middleton & Mr. Garth Webster, of U.I.I. was taken of the entire mining operation.

Trial vegetation plots will be attempted of the McGary waste dump and alluvium operation, these plots will be in conjunction with U.I.I.'s ongoing study work for revegetation. Seedlings will be located inside some of the exclosures planned by U.I.I. and some will be outside of these same exclosures. Prospects for gaining information for the use of all parties involved look good. Planting of seedlings will commence on March 29th.

On this visit of March 29th, Utah International will also have some preliminary work done on their notice of intent and reclamation plan. Discussions will be held on their proposed reclamation work.

Facilities visited on company property during this visit and the work being done on the specific locations are as listed below:

THE BLACKBIRD PIT:

Deepening of pit is being performed and spoil material is being deposited into an adjacent pit.

SMITH WASTE DUMP:

The dump has been recontoured and last fall was planted with Yellow Sweet Clover.

ECLIPSE PIT DUMP:

The dump was recontoured and planted with Yellow Sweet Clover last fall (November 1975).

ECLIPSE PIT:

The pit is being deepened following the ore body and spoil from

excavation is being dumped into the old Pioche Pit.

LITTLE MORMON PIT:

This small operation is in planning stages and will be one of the new excavations started this year. Some of the spoil from the Little Mormon will be used to fill a shallow basin. The remainder will be dumped into the Pioche Pit.

PIOCHE PIT:

This pit has lost its economic value and is slowly being filled with waste from adjacent active pits.

ALLUVIUM OPERATIONS:

The drag line and mobile concentrator are active in the Alluvium Operation. Work here is exactly the same as that which was being performed during the last inspection.

Utah International is concerned about the old spoil piles and waste dumps respective to their responsibility for these in their reclamation plans. Naturally they will not be responsible for dumps abandoned before the Act came into being. Any further waste disposal in my opinion should be directed to filling their uneconomic pits wherever possible. An uneconomic pit for disposal is not always available, but I feel these can be worked out as the cases come to light. The company has now opted to file all operations in Iron Springs District on one reclamation plan. In view of work involved for filing and granting approval for each plan had they filed separately, I feel this is his best alternative.

The proposed surety and bonding act, and proposed agreement for surety were left with Mr. York Jones, Mine Manager. He has promised to review these, have his Company review these, and send us their combined comments as soon as possible.

RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

RWD/lc

Regrading on the Iron Springs District for reclamation has been attempted by Utah International in several locations. Most notable, the alluvium area assumes its entire final contour by regrading the cast overburden. Regrading of spoil piles adjacent to the Eclipse pit is being attempted on a trial basis. This practice produces an attractive, gently sloping pile on which revegetation is possible.

Open pits left after extracting the iron ore vein are in most cases, extremely deep with almost vertical walls. Economically, most would be difficult to fill in or regrade, however, the corporation has placed a 2'-3' berm around the top of most pits. These pits still could present a hazard to recreational vehicle users, sportsmen, and livestock, provisions should be made for better protecting these hazards. Reclamation plans should include provisions for regrading, filling, or fencing of pits after they are no longer useful.

Summary: (1) Utah International in their operations at Iron Springs is a diverse and widespread mining venture. New locations will be filed on as initiated by the operator and existing locations will all be filed on by July, 1977.

(2) Reclamation has been attempted to some degree, and most results are encouraging. With proper planning and consultation, Utah International could be the leader in reclamation efforts in southern Utah.

(3) Regrading of spoil piles to more gentle contours is possible and desirable. Pits abandoned should be filled, regraded, or fenced.

RONALD W. DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND
RECLAMATION

RWD/lc